REDUCTION OF TAX ON ANJANAD PADDY LANDS.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

"This Council recommends to the Government that, in view of the peculiar conditions prevailing in Anjanad, tax on paddy lands in the locality be reduced by 50 per cent. from 1109 for the next two years as a special case."

In this connection what I have to say is that most people in Travancore, Government officials and heads of departments have not seen or known where Anjanad is and the conditions there. The people of Anjanad group consisting of nine villages depend upon cultivation of paddy for their living. There is no industry of any kind whatever. Even for paddy cultivation they have not got proper irrigation tanks or channels except for one village. The other villages suffer for want of water. They depend upon rain for their water. Government have not done anything in order to construct a few irrigation tanks here and there, so that their cultivation may go on satisfactorily. They are leading a life of misery and they are finding it impossible to bear the present rate of land tax on paddy lands. They have to sell their paddy to outsiders for their clothing and home necessities such as salt, tobacco and other requirements. They have to carry their paddy on head-loads for about 25 miles because there are no roads. Without selling paddy they cannot even cover their nakedness. From the people who are residing in such a forlorn place, the Government are recovering the maximum amount of tax. One of the voters has written to me to say that the tax levied there is higher than in most other parts of Travancore. The quantity of yield of crop is far poor, when compared with other parts of Travancore. Therefore, I request the House to support my resolution wholeheartedly so that the poor tax-payers may be benefited especially at the time of this economic depression in getting a reduction of 50 per cent. of the land tax on paddy lands and to continue that concession for the next ten years.

MR. V. S. ARUMUKHAM PILLAI (*Tovala* cum *Agastisvaram*): What is the average tax per acre in that locality?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: About Rs. 4.

MR. V. S. ARUMUKHAM PILLAI: Is the member aware that, in Nanjinad, the people have to pay twenty-eight and thirty rupees per acre?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: Yes; but they have the Kodayar Project.

MR. K. K. THOMAS: May I know the total loss of revenue that may result by granting the fifty per cent. remission recommended by the resolution?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: There are about three thousand and nine-hundred acres of wet land in the Devicolam Division on the whole;

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and, in Anjanad, there are about 2,000 acres of land. If the resolution is accepted by Government, it would involve a loss of about Rs. 4,000 per annum. That is all.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: What are the classes of people who own these lands?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: They are people who had settled there centuries ago and who were handed over to Government, along with that territory, by the Poonjar Raja. They have absolutely no connection with the outside world. They are somewhat like Hill Tribes. None of their children goes to school, nor is there any school in the locality. There is no dispensary there, except the one at Marayoor, which is only a nominal dispensary since the doctor there is intended mainly to go on special duty for plague prevention work in Devicolam. Sir, the people in this locality are extremely poor; and Government have not done anything for them. It is as a matter of charity that I request for this remission. I beg that something may be done for these people who really form an isolated and helpless lot.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether this concession is intended to benefit some outsiders also?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: Not at all.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I know under what category these people come according to the Census Commissioner's classification?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: They are Hindus.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Do they belong to the depressed classes?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: Mostly. I know there are no Nayars, no Syrian Christians and no Brahmins.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: If they are Hindus may I know their caste?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: There are several sub-divisions of Hindus there; for instance, there are Sakkalians doing sweeping work.

MR. K. K THOMAS: What is the average net yield per acre?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: Very poor, and not enough to keep them going on. That is all I can say.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Is it Travancore territory?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: Yes.

MR. K. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): I second the resolution.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Narayana Menon has given notice of some amendments. They were received late. I am ruling them out of order not entirely for that reason, but because they do not come within the scope of the resolution.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: On a point of order, Sir. Is it proper to disallow an amendment after it has been admitted?

PRESIDENT: [illegible]

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MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRIHNAN TAMPI: But we have been given notice of the amendments. Government cannot do that unless they admit the amendments.

PRESIDENT: Government have nothing to do with the admission of amendments. It is the President that has to disallow them.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, we are not in a position to discuss this matter since we do not know the exact conditions prevailing in that particular locality. We are all very anxious to discuss the matters involved in the amendment of Mr. Narayana Menon.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Sir, I am afraid Mr. Marikar has not given the correct acreage of wet lands in Anjanad. The total area is about 3,600 acres, of which about 3,100 acres are single crop rain-fed lands and about 500 acres are double crop lands irrigated by the Thalliyar Right Bank Channel. The total assessment on the 3,100 acres is about Rs. 5,794. The average assessment per acre is about Re. 1-24 chs. Of these 3,100 acres, more than ninety-eight per cent., are classified as ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth *tharams* having an assessment of Rs. 4-4 chs., Rs. 3-8 chs. 12 c., Rs. 2-13 chs. 7 c., Re. 1-16 chs. 6 c., and 23 chs. 3 c., per acre, respectively. There are as many as 460 acres in the last class carrying an assessment of 23 chs. 3 c., per acre only. In the next higher class there is an extent of 1,040 acres. Taking the whole area, the average assessment comes to only Re. 1-24 chs. per acre.

MR. K. K. THOMAS: What, according to Government, is the net yield per acre?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I have no information.

In the case of the five hundred odd acres irrigated by the Thalliyar Right Bank Channel, dry assessment is levied in Nachivayal at ten fanams per acre, and, in Kandalur at fifteen fanams per acre. Besides this, Government have also been realising a water cess of Rs. 4 per acre. But, it has been found that the water in this channel is not sufficient to irrigate all the five hundred acres. There is a portion of the area which does not get any water at all and there is another portion which does not get enough water. In consequence of the representations made to Government, they have ordered that, with effect from the 1st Chingam 1108, the water cess on lands which do not get enough water be reduced from Rs. 4 to Rs. 2 per acre and that on the lands which do not get any water at all it be abolished altogether.

Mr. Marikar complains that Government do not do anything for providing irrigation facilities in Anjanad. I may inform him that this question has been engaging the attention of Government.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: For how many years, please?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: The matter has actually been taken up by Government. There is a proposal to construct a reservoir and a dam at a total cost of about Rs. 26,000. If this work is carried out, it is expected that the lands in Kandalur and in some other villages could be irrigated. Before taking the work on hand

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Government wanted to know whether the ryots concerned were prepared to pay a small water cess. It has now been ascertained that they are willing to pay the water cess which will come to a little over a rupee per acre. The estimates for the reservoir and the dam have been sent up to Government and I am sure early orders will be passed thereon.

Mr. Marikar also complains that officers do not visit that part the country at all, at any rate, not as often as they ought to. Till n of it has been rather difficult for people to go there but, now that ow Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road has been completed and that the Neriamangalam Bridge will also be completed soon, I think Mr. Marikar can expect more visits from officers hereafter. I can assure him that I will take the earliest opportunity to visit Anjanad, ascertain the needs of the paddy cultivators there and do the needful. If, as Mr. Marikar says, the ryots are still suffering any hardship I will look into the matter personally and advise Government as to what they should do to relieve their distress.

MR. K. K. THOMAS: Is not Anjanad highly feverish?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: It is; one can safely visit the place only in certain seasons.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: In the light of the assurance given by the Land Revenue Commissioner that he will himself visit the locality and do the needful, I withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MANUFACTURE OF SALT FOR CONSUMPTION BY PEOPLE LIVING ON THE SEA COAST.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:—

"*This Council recommends to the Government that bona fide consumers in sea-bordering taluks be permitted to manufacture salt for their own use.*

Sir, I am aware of the clause in the Interportal Trade Convention relating to the adoption of the British Indian monopoly price of salt. But, the provisions of the Interportal Trade Convention apply only for the sale or purchase of salt, or for the reduction or enhancement of duty on salt. My present resolution relates only to the manufacture, by *bona fide* consumers themselves, of salt for home consumption and not for sale.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Are not the Government bound, under the Interportal Trade Convention, to impose a duty of Re. 1 annas 9 per maund even on salt manufactured by *bona fide* consumers?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: The Convention does not specifically say so. It only speaks of purchase or sale of salt, and the enhancement or reduction of the duty on salt. This is what is stated there:

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